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THE EVENING EDITION

DOW: -15.55 (0.04%) | S&P: +8.50 (0.18%) | NASDAQ: +61.37 (0.39%)
Numbers from Google Finance as of 3:45 p.m. ET today

Catching up on the day. Looking ahead to tonight.

November 24, 2021

All 3 men charged in Arbery's death convicted of murder

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Travis McMichael speaks to his attorney, Robert Rubin, during the trial for Ahmaud Arbery's shooting death at the Glynn County Courthouse on Nov. 9 in Brunswick, Georgia. (Stephen B. Morton/Pool/Getty)



Travelers queue up at the south security checkpoint as traffic increases with the approach of the Thanksgiving holiday, Tuesday at Denver International Airport in Denver. (David Zalubowski/AP)

On the road again: Travelers head out for Thanksgiving

David Koenig,
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Determined to reclaim Thanksgiving traditions that were put on pause last year by the pandemic, millions of Americans will be loading up their cars or piling onto planes to gather again with friends and family.

The number of air travelers this week is expected to approach or even exceed pre-pandemic levels, and auto club AAA predicts that 48.3 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday period, an increase of nearly 4 million over last year despite sharply higher gasoline prices.

Many feel emboldened by the fact that nearly 200 million Americans are now fully vaccinated. But it also means brushing aside concerns about a resurgent virus at a time when the U.S. is now averaging nearly 100,000 new

infections a day and hospitals in Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado and Arizona are seeing alarming increases in patients.

The seven-day daily average of new reported cases up nearly 30% in the last two weeks through Tuesday, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says unvaccinated people should not travel, although it is unclear whether that recommendation is having any effect.

More than 2.2 million travelers streamed through airport checkpoints last Friday, the busiest day since the pandemic devastated travel early last year. From Friday through Tuesday, the number of people flying in the U.S. was more than double the same days last year and less than 9% lower than the same days in 2019.

At Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, Christian Titus

was heading to visit extended family in Canada. Titus says he's spent much of the pandemic inside but is willing to risk flying on a crowded airplane because he misses being around his family. He got a booster shot to increase his protection.

"My mental health does better by being around my family during these times," he said. "Yeah, it's dangerous. But you love these people, so you do what you can to stay safe around them."

Meka Starling and her husband were excited for many members of their extended family to meet their 2-year-old son, Kaiden, for the first time at a big Thanksgiving gathering in Linden, New Jersey.

"We've put pictures on Facebook so a lot of them have seen pictures of him, but to get to actually touch him and talk to him, I'm excited about it," said Starling, 44, of West Point, Mississippi.

For their part, airlines are hoping to avoid a repeat of the massive flight cancellations — more than 2,300 apiece — that dogged Southwest and American Airlines at different times last month.

The breakdowns started with bad weather in one part of the country and spun out of control. In the past, airlines had enough pilots, flight attendants and other workers to recover from many disruptions within a day or two. They are finding it harder to bounce back now, however, because they are stretched thin after pushing thousands of employees to quit when travel collapsed last year.

American, Southwest, Delta and United have all been hiring lately, which gives the airlines and industry observers hope that flights will stay on track this week.

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Next stop for Biden's agenda: Hitting the campaign trail

Bridget Bowman,
CQ-Roll Call

After touring a medical campus in Cleveland on Monday, Ohio Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan stressed the importance of getting one of President Joe Biden's signature policy achievements across the finish line.

"There's a variety of things in here that are going to be very, very helpful," Ryan, who is running for Senate, said at a press conference.

Ryan was referring to the nearly \$2 trillion package known as the Build Back Better bill, which passed the House on Friday and includes a litany of Democratic priorities, such as restored or extended tax cuts and expansions to the social safety net. All but one House Democrat supported the bill, which now heads to the Senate.

Democratic Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota, a GOP target in 2022, touted the spending package as "support for working families across Minnesota" in an interview over the weekend with a local CBS affiliate.

The push to tout the sweeping social spending bill, along with a bipartisan infrastructure package that Biden signed earlier this month, marks a departure from the last time voters weighed in on the agenda of a first-term Democratic president whose party controlled both chambers in Congress.

Back in 2010, the focus was on President Barack Obama's overhaul of health insurance, and an economic stimulus package he signed shortly after he was inaugurated. Each law came under attack, and many candidates struggled to convince voters how they stood to benefit. That year, Democrats lost 63 seats and control of

the House. The party also lost six Senate seats, but held on to control.

This cycle, Democrats say they plan to run on their major policy accomplishments, not run away from them.

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Sean Patrick Maloney of New York said actively touting these packages is a lesson learned from the 2010 elections.

"The lesson is: People don't know if you don't tell them. And no matter how popular your policies, people have to know you did it and they have to understand in most cases, every Republican voted against it," Maloney said in a brief interview off the House floor last week.

"You're either on offense or defense, and I want to be on offense," Maloney later added. "We're doing great things. We have a great story to tell, but that

message has not reached enough people yet. We need to tell them."

Maloney announced last week that every House Democrat in the coming weeks would hold five events on the infrastructure and spending packages, culminating in at least 1,000 events by the end of the year. Biden has also started to travel to tout the policies.

Democratic outside groups are also becoming engaged. The group Build Back Better Together announced a \$10 million effort to air TV and digital ads supporting Biden's agenda in Arizona, Georgia, New Hampshire, Nevada and Pennsylvania, all critical Senate battlegrounds. House Majority Forward, the nonprofit arm of the super PAC House Majority PAC, is increasing its investment in promoting

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President Joe Biden gives a speech on his bipartisan infrastructure deal and Build Back Better Agenda at the NJ Transit Meadowlands Maintenance Complex on Oct. 25 in Kearny, New Jersey. (Michael M. Santiago/Getty)

Does Congress spend too much time away from Washington?



Vehicles of representatives fill the East Front of the U.S. Capitol Building as Democrats attempt to hold a vote on the Build Back Better legislation in the House of Representatives on Nov. 18 in Washington, D.C. (Samuel Corum/Getty)

David Lightman,
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Congress has no votes this week, even though the government runs out of money next Friday and is expected to hit its debt ceiling soon afterward.

This Thanksgiving Day recess is the second big exodus from Washington for Congress this month. The House and Senate were out of session for Veterans Day the week of Nov. 8. And they were gone for a weeklong break in October.

What this schedule means is that “you get rapid policymaking at the end of the process, where all the deals are struck in the final hours,” said Chris Hoene, executive director of the California Budget & Policy Center and a former director of research for the National League of Cities in Washington.

“They should be there just doing the regular stuff they’re supposed to do,” said Andrew Lautz, director of federal policy at the National Taxpayers Union.

Lawmakers vigorously defend the schedule.

Margaret Mulkerrin, spokeswoman for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., called this year “historically productive.”

She cited House passage of the American Rescue Plan, which provided economic relief from COVID-triggered issues, as well as a \$1 trillion infrastructure package and last Friday, the \$1.75 billion budget and tax bill.

“All of these achievements have been made possible by a robust House schedule with committee work weeks — originally borne out of necessity during the height of the pandemic — that allow House committees to hold hearings and (write) legislation without

interruption to continue preparing legislation for Floor consideration,” she said.

In addition, there’s more need, said some experts, for members’ presence and services back home on issues exacerbated by the pandemic, such as immigration issues and the maze of new and expanded federal programs to help people cope with the volatile economy.

Because of such pressing issues back home, “there’s more at stake,” and thus constituents want lawmakers’ help, said Brad Fitch, president and CEO of the independent Congressional Management Foundation, which studies Congress.

Too many recesses?

The Senate formally convened this year Jan. 3, met Jan. 6 and then met again Jan. 20.

It then broke for “district work periods” that included a week in

February for Presidents Day, for two weeks in late March and April for Easter and Passover, another week in early May and again around Memorial Day. It took two weeks in July for Independence Day. There was a monthlong August-September recess, a week in October for Columbus Day, and now the two weeks in November. When the Senate is around, the week’s sessions usually begin at 3 p.m. Monday and end in mid-afternoon on Thursdays.

The schedule is expected to include more weekdays and even weekends in December as deadlines loom.

The House schedule has been somewhat different and has included 15 “committee work weeks.” Fitch praised those weeks, noting they allow members to attend committee meetings without having to be interrupted for

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Shalanda D. Young appears before a Senate Committee on the Budget hearing to examine her nomination to be deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on March 2 in Washington, D.C. (Rod Lamkey/CNP/Zuma Press/TNS)

Biden makes it official as Young gets OMB director nod

Jennifer Shutt,
CQ-Roll Call

President Joe Biden on Wednesday said Shalanda D. Young would be his nominee for White House budget director, solidifying a role she's been filling in an acting capacity for months. Young, a former Democratic staff director for the House Appropriations Committee, has served as acting director of the Office of Management and Budget since the Senate confirmed her as deputy director in March on a 63-37 vote.

Biden originally nominated Neera Tanden, former head of the Center for American Progress think tank, to be OMB director. But she withdrew her nomination in early March after several moderate Democrats voiced concerns amid unified Republican opposition. Later, Biden named Tanden a senior adviser and, ultimately, White House

staff secretary.

The Louisiana native has become one of the top advocates for the Biden administration's fiscal 2022 budget request, which proposed a 16.5% boost for domestic and foreign aid programs while asking Congress to increase defense funding by 1.6%.

Young's nomination comes just as year-end spending negotiations are starting to heat up.

Republicans rebuked the Biden administration for proposing a narrow funding increase for defense, arguing that it could cede the United States' role as a leading military power.

Senate Budget Committee ranking member Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who backed Young's nomination for deputy director, told her during a June 8 hearing that the defense spending level was the "real problem" with the proposal.

"How do you grow the Defense Department to compete with the technologies being developed by Russia and China if our defense spending is less than inflation? Their spending is not less than inflation, so this budget, I think, is blind to the world in which we live in, in terms of military threats," Graham said.

Young told the panel the larger increase for nondefense discretionary programs would "restore nondefense appropriations to its historical average share of the economy."

At the time, she told Graham that getting to a final topline spending level and completing appropriations bills "has to be a bipartisan process."

So far, there hasn't been much movement towards a bipartisan deal on spending levels. Republicans have thus far declined to negotiate funding allocations unless Democrats first agree to maintain status quo policy

provisions carried in appropriations bills, including on contentious topics like abortion.

As a result, lawmakers are set to take up their second stopgap funding bill of the fiscal year next week after returning from the Thanksgiving break. The length of the continuing resolution hasn't been decided yet.

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., is pushing to extend temporary funding levels for only a couple of weeks beyond the current CR's Dec. 3 end date. She's said the new stopgap shouldn't have any "anomalies" in it to prevent disruptions that can arise under a CR's flat funding levels, to try to incentivize a quick omnibus deal.

But some in the Senate prefer to punt final decisions on fiscal 2022 spending into early next year, either February or

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Iranian nuclear work becoming a mystery to global monitors

Jonathan Tirone,
Bloomberg News

International nuclear inspectors say they're on the brink of losing irrecoverable knowledge about some of Iran's atomic activities, signaling a mounting sense of urgency ahead of next week's talks between the Islamic Republic and world powers.

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi issued the warning on Wednesday following a trip to Tehran that failed to ease concerns over a lack of monitoring at a centrifuge workshop outside of Iran's capital.

While IAEA inspectors continue to collect fine-grained data about the quantity and purity-levels of Iran's nuclear-fuel stockpile, they've been unable to mount surveillance gear at

the factory in Karaj, which makes components for the fast-spinning machines that separate uranium isotopes.

"We are close to the point when I would not be able to guarantee continuity of knowledge," Grossi said at a press briefing in Vienna, where the IAEA's board of governors has convened to discuss Iran's nuclear activities. "We have to solve this issue very quickly."

Western diplomats have warned for months that Iran's lack of cooperation with inspectors could result in a resolution of censure, a move that has the potential to send the country's nuclear case back to the UN Security Council.

Iran says such a measure would reduce the already dwindling possibility of reviving its landmark nuclear accord, known as the JCPOA, struck in 2015

with China, France, Germany, Russia, the U.K. and U.S.

Restoring that deal — which capped Iran's atomic program in return for sanctions relief until it was abandoned by the Trump administration three years ago — could ease tensions in the Persian Gulf and allow Tehran to return to global oil markets.

The Argentine diplomat described his meeting on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian as "inconclusive." While the sides continue to communicate, they failed to reach any sort of agreement that would alleviate the agency's doubts.

IAEA inspectors reported this month that Iran continues stonewalling their attempts to explain the source of decades-old uranium traces detected at undeclared locations. Iran is also alleged to have intimidated some

inspectors by imposing excessive security measures following last year's sabotage of a uranium-enrichment plant.

Tehran's stock of uranium enriched to 60%, not that far short of what's required to build a nuclear weapon, has expanded. Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful civilian uses but western fears it might get close to developing a bomb catalyzed the diplomacy leading up to the 2015 deal.

"It is clear there are mutual influences," Grossi said about the impact of the JCPOA talks that resume Nov. 29 on inspections. "What may happen in one place may have an impact on the other."

While the IAEA isn't a formal party to the nuclear deal, its inspectors are

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, right, meets with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi at the foreign ministry headquarters in the capital Tehran on Tuesday. (Atta Kenare/AFP via Getty)



From left, Christian Lindner, party leader of the FDP, Olaf Scholz, SPD candidate for chancellor and executive federal minister of finance, Annalena Baerbock, federal leader of the Green party and Robert Habeck, federal leader of the Green party at a joint news conference in Berlin on Wednesday. (Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP)

German parties reach deal for government to end Merkel era

Geir Moulson and Frank Jordans,
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's would-be governing parties vowed Wednesday to modernize Europe's biggest economy and step up efforts against climate change as they announced an agreement that leaves center-left leader Olaf Scholz poised to replace longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel within weeks.

The coalition will shift Germany's leadership a bit to the left after 16 years under the center-right Merkel, who gained plaudits for her handling of a series of crises over the years. Scholz signaled that the country's foreign policy would not change much. Scholz's Social Democrats, the environmentalist Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats are set to take the reins just as Germany faces its

biggest surge of coronavirus infections in the pandemic so far, a reality that somewhat overshadowed the launch. Scholz opened the event by promising that "the new government will do everything necessary to bring us through this time well."

The three-party alliance is a first for a German government and creates strange bedfellows, with two left-leaning parties and one, the Free Democrats, that in recent decades allied with the center-right. But Scholz presented it as a big opportunity. The new government will not seek "the lowest common denominator, but the politics of big impacts," he promised. Scholz, 63, said he expects that members of the three parties will give their blessing to the deal in the next 10 days. The biggest challenge is a vote by the Greens' roughly 125,000-strong membership. The other two parties

plan to sign off on it at conventions during the first weekend in December, paving the way for parliament to elect Scholz as chancellor during the week starting Dec. 6.

Scholz has been Merkel's finance minister and vice chancellor since 2018 in the outgoing "grand coalition" of Germany's traditional big parties, in which his party was the junior partner. Merkel didn't run for a fifth term, and her Christian Democrats will head into opposition after a disastrous campaign that ended with defeat in Germany's Sept. 26 election.

"We will take over the government in a time of crisis," Green co-leader Robert Habeck acknowledged, describing the coalition deal as a sign of "courage and confidence" that fits those times. "The guiding principle of this government is a society that acts, a state that invests and a Germany that simply works."

Key pledges by the prospective partners include an increase in the minimum wage to 12 euros (\$13.50) per hour from the current 9.60 euros — a move that Scholz said "means a wage increase for 10 million citizens." And they also aim to get 400,000 new apartments per year built in an effort to curb rising rental prices.

Habeck also said measures planned by the government would put Germany on a path to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate accord. It also intends to bring forward Germany's exit from coal-fueled power from 2038, "ideally" completing it in 2030.

Habeck added that, instead of formally setting new goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it will focus on concrete measures including ensuring that the price per ton of

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Mandates slowly lift vaccine demand in Eastern Europe

Andrea Dudik and Slav Okov,
Bloomberg News

Governments' get-tough approach on the unvaccinated may be slowly having an impact on some of the holdouts in Eastern Europe.

In Bulgaria, where fewer than one quarter of the population is fully inoculated against the coronavirus, the number of weekly shots delivered has tripled in the past month. The catalyst? A new edict that proof of vaccination or a negative test is needed for bars, restaurants and gyms.

Czech authorities merely needed the threat of a clampdown to shift attitudes. The rollout has doubled already in November, even before new restrictions came into force this week. People are queuing for an hour or more

at centers such as the one at the main train station in Prague.

Fear may also be playing a part in finally driving a shift among some of the reluctant cohort. Infections are rising at a record pace in some countries, hospitals are stretched to capacity, and daily grim headlines about the health crisis on the continent are impossible to ignore.

The virus is also disrupting politics. Governments' chaotic communications and inconsistent social-distancing measures contributed to the downfall of several leaders across eastern Europe this year.

In Bulgaria, frustration over inability to corral the virus combined with anger over endemic corruption helped to end reign of one of Europe's longest serving politicians, former Premier Boyko Borisov. Czech billionaire

Premier Andrej Babis was defeated in elections last month.

Slow progress

The change in vaccine demand is a step in the right direction in a region where vaccine take-up has been incredibly slow, and which is now experiencing a spike in infections. Slovakia's new-case rate over the past week has been higher than even neighboring Austria, where a full national lockdown has been reimposed.

But even at the current speed, it will take months to get vaccinations up to the high thresholds needed to control the spread. And the pace will be impossible to maintain, given entrenched anti-vax sentiment.

Elsewhere in Europe, governments have also been targeting the unvaccinated, restricting their access to everyday activities. Germany has

barred them from restaurants and public events in certain hotspot regions, and Italy is debating a similar measure.

Hungary is holding a "vaccine week" across the country where people can show up at hospitals and get a COVID shot without prior registration. While the country was among the first in Europe to roll out the shots, rates have since trailed off and remain below the EU average.

Authorities administered 256,000 shots in the first two days of the week, though the vast majority — 209,000 — were boosters.

The situation in Slovakia, where less than half the population is vaccinated, prompted a depressing assessment

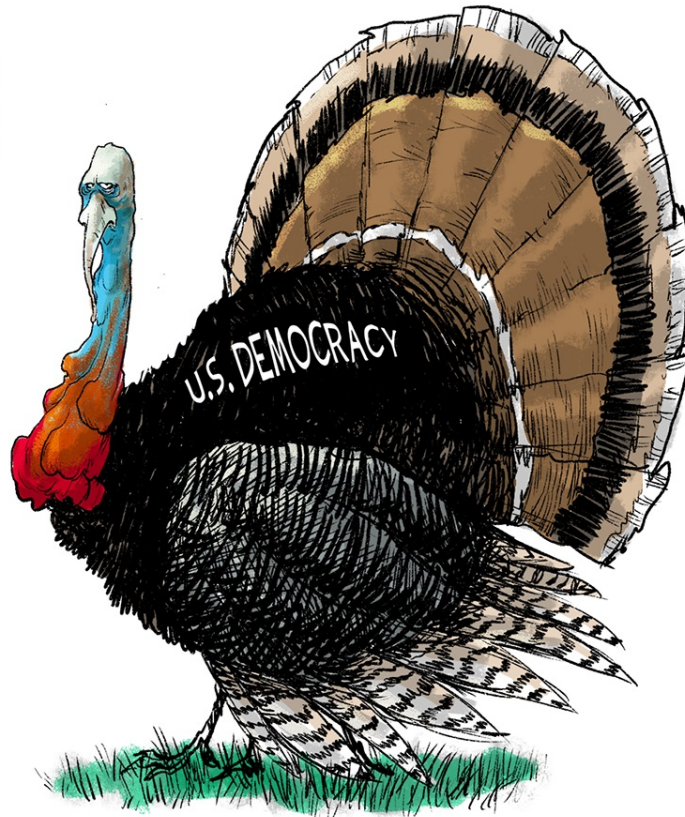
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Sports shop staff check for green COVID certificates on Oct. 24 in Sofia, Bulgaria. With the lowest vaccine rate in Europe and one of the highest mortality rates in recent weeks, Bulgaria has stepped up restrictions by introducing mandatory health certificates required to enter public institution and places of leisure. (Hristo Rusev/Getty)

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

EVERYONE RELAX.
MY FOUNDATIONS ARE
SOLID, MY INSTITUTIONS
ARE STRONG AND --
:sniff: :sniff:
ANYBODY ELSE
SMELL
CRANBERRIES?



This Thanksgiving, be thankful for where and what you are not

Trudy Rubin,
The Philadelphia Inquirer

This Thanksgiving, I'm giving thanks for all the things I'm not.

Of course, like so many Americans, I'm grateful to be able to rejoin my family turkey fest in person. I'm also grateful to be vaxxed and boosted, as are all the relatives I'm visiting in vaccine-sane Massachusetts.

But as someone who writes about foreign affairs, it's impossible to feel sanguine about turkey with mushroom stuffing and sweet potato-apple casserole when I've just been speaking via Signal with Afghan friends in hiding from Taliban killers.

"The world is too much with us" (as the poet William Wordsworth knew) to permit our self-isolation from human suffering, which now can be accessed via voice or video from thousands of miles away. Yet so many of us are deliberately insulated, unappreciative of how much we still have — as the world undergoes a terrible wave of human tragedies.

That's why I propose that, in order to grasp the extent of our blessings, we should fully appreciate who and where we might be were it not for an accident of birth.

I'm grateful that I'm not the female Afghan human rights lawyer I wrote about recently. She worked with U.S. officials, as did her retired judge father-in-law who helped U.S. anti-corruption projects. If I were that lawyer, I would be spending this week with seven other family members in hiding — in two bare rooms — with no visible future for her, her husband, their four children, and her in-laws. The Taliban is searching for them by name and for all those who worked with Americans — to jail or kill them. If I were that lawyer, I would be wondering bitterly how I ever trusted U.S. promises that I and thousands of others who worked with the U.S. military would be given special immigrant visas (SIVs). The State Department has frozen that visa process and betrayed the thousands of eligible Afghans left behind. It is blocking flights privately chartered by retired U.S. offices to evacuate their former Afghan colleagues. If I were

that woman, I would be waiting for a miracle or death.

I'm grateful that I am not an Iraqi Kurdish parent who just spent days trying to protect my child in the mud and frigid cold at the Belarus-Polish border — in the desperate, failed hope of entering the European Union. Conned by a sudden flood of easy-to-obtain Belarusian visas, misled by Facebook disinformation, thousands of Kurds paid their life savings to smugglers to get them across that border. Instead, they were trapped and brutalized between Belarusian guards and Polish troops — double-crossed by a Belarusian dictator who used them to threaten Europe with a wave of new migrants. Some are spending this week locked up in a bare, concrete Belarusian warehouse, while others make their pitiful trek back to poverty in Iraq.

I am grateful I don't share the fate of pro-democracy female leader Nang Khin Htwe Myint, who was sentenced to 75 years in prison on Nov. 9. Her crime: encouraging soldiers to take the public's side against the February coup by the military's notorious generals.

The ongoing civil and military resistance to the coup gets too little attention here, but Nang Khin Htwe Myint's courage reflects it. As chief minister of the federal state containing most of Myanmar's ethnic Karen population — and having served under the ousted civilian government — she carries on the legacy of her father in struggling against military rule. She has survived many past imprisonments, yet this week, at age 67, she confronts the prospect of dying behind bars.

And I am grateful I'm not a parent of one of the wonderful Hong Kong teenagers I met during the student uprising of November 2019, who were demonstrating against Beijing's effort to curb rule of law in the city. What would I tell them? Raised to believe in Hong Kongers' right to free elections and a free press, along with an independent judiciary, they have entered a cruel new and unfamiliar world (not dissimilar to the shock confronting Kabul teenagers who had never tasted Taliban repression until now). These bright, passionate young

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Jobless claims hit 52-year low after seasonal adjustments



People walk between office buildings during the lunch hour on Nov. 18 in downtown Washington, D.C. (Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty)

Paul Wiseman,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits plummeted last week to the lowest level in more than half a century, another sign that the U.S. job market is rebounding rapidly from last year's coronavirus recession. Jobless claims dropped by 71,000 to 199,000, the lowest since mid-November 1969. But seasonal adjustments around the Thanksgiving holiday contributed significantly to the bigger-than-expected drop. Unadjusted, claims actually ticked up by more than 18,000 to nearly 259,000. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out weekly ups and downs, also dropped — by 21,000 to just over 252,000, the lowest since mid-March 2020 when the pandemic slammed the economy.

Since topping 900,000 in early January, the applications have fallen steadily toward and now fallen below their prepandemic level of around 220,000 a week. Claims for jobless aid are a proxy for layoffs. Overall, 2 million Americans were collecting traditional unemployment checks the week that ended Nov. 13, down slightly from the week before. "Overall, expect continued volatility in the headline figures, but the trend remains very slowly lower," Contingent Macro Advisors wrote in a research note. Until Sept. 6, the federal government had supplemented state unemployment insurance programs by paying an extra payment of \$300 a week and extending benefits to gig workers and to those who were out of work for six months or more. Including the federal programs, the number of Americans receiving some form of jobless aid peaked at more than 33 million in June

2020.

The job market has staged a remarkable comeback since the spring of 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic forced businesses to close or cut hours and kept many Americans at home as a health precaution. In March and April last year, employers slashed more than 22 million jobs. But government relief checks, super-low interest rates and the rollout of vaccines combined to give consumers the confidence and financial wherewithal to start spending again. Employers, scrambling to meet an unexpected surge in demand, have made 18 million new hires since April 2020 and are expected to add another 575,000 this month. Still, the United States remains 4 million short of the jobs it had in February 2020. Companies now complain that they can't find workers to fill job openings, a near-record 10.4 million in September. Workers, finding

themselves with bargaining clout for the first time in decades, are becoming choosier about jobs; a record 4.4 million quit in September, a sign they have confidence in their ability to find something better.

Consumer spending rebounds despite rising October inflation

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer spending rebounded by a solid 1.3% in October despite inflation that over the past year has accelerated faster than it has at any point in more than three decades. The jump in consumer spending last month was double the 0.6% gain in September, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. At the same time, consumer prices rose 5% compared with the same period last

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\$790M settlement in lawsuit over Rams' St. Louis departure

Bill Shaikin,
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Rams and the NFL have agreed to pay about \$800 million to settle a lawsuit over the team's departure from St. Louis.

The settlement enables Rams owner Stan Kroenke to avoid the spectacle of taking the witness stand in a St. Louis trial next month, just before the Super Bowl at Kroenke's showcase stadium in Inglewood. The settlement also voids Kroenke's threat to sue the NFL and his fellow owners if they did not agree to share in the settlement cost with him.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which first reported the settlement, said the figure was \$790 million. The Los Angeles Times confirmed the settlement with a person familiar with

the case who wasn't authorized to speak publicly, who put the figure in "the \$800 million range." The Post-Dispatch reported the settlement did not include an expansion team for St. Louis and said an announcement was expected later Wednesday.

It was not immediately clear how much of the settlement would be paid by Kroenke and how much by the league and other owners.

The lawsuit, filed in 2017, alleged the Rams' move from St. Louis to Los Angeles violated the NFL's relocation policy, under which the team and the league should have made every reasonable effort to keep the team in St. Louis.

The Rams argued that, when St. Louis declined to make \$700 million in improvements to the team's stadium there, that triggered a lease provision that enabled the team to end the lease

and leave town. St. Louis argued that ended the lease but did not absolve the Rams from negotiating with the city thereafter, and the city spent millions on proposals for a new stadium while the Rams had already decided to leave for L.A., even as team and league officials stated otherwise.

The NFL asked the St. Louis Circuit Court to throw out the lawsuit, to order private arbitration and to move any trial out of St. Louis. The court declined all three requests; the rulings were sustained on appeal.

St. Louis asked to be awarded the \$550 million that the Rams paid the NFL as a relocation fee, as well as the increase in the franchise value since the move. Forbes estimated the Rams' franchise value at \$1.45 billion in 2016, just before Rams moved, and at \$4.8 billion in 2021.

With the addition of tax revenue St. Louis lost when the Rams moved, damages could have topped \$4 billion, independent of any punitive damages.

The NFL appeared resigned to losing before a hometown jury but confident it could be successful on appeal, at least in having the damages significantly reduced. The NFL's risk was losing now; the city's risk was losing later.

Before NFL owners approved the Rams' move, Kroenke signed an indemnification agreement that obligated him to pay the "costs, including legal fees and other litigation expenses," to defend any challenge to a move.

Kroenke had informed his fellow owners he does not believe the legal

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Los Angeles Rams team owner Stan Kroenke, left, and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell pose for a picture prior to a game against the Chicago Bears at SoFi Stadium on Sept. 12 in Inglewood, California. (Ronald Martinez/Getty)

HOROSCOPES

What do the stars hold for you tomorrow?

Nancy Black,
Tribune Content Agency

Tomorrow's birthday (11/25/21). Craft your masterpiece this year. Steady discipline with creative projects produces spectacular results. Discover something new about yourself this winter, energizing your work, health and fitness next spring. Peaceful summer contemplation processes changes, inspiring new visions and plans next autumn. Listen, express and share.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Enjoy peace, simplicity and family fun. Prioritize love and gratitude. Call if you're going to be late. Try things the easy way. Relax.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Home and family matters have your attention. Cook up something delicious together. Keep it easy and fun. Reduce stress or hassle. Go for old favorites.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Stick to basic facts, especially if things get confusing. Listen more than speaking. Someone else could stir things up. Diplomacy and respectfulness win.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Cash flows in thanks to your own communications and actions. It's not about luck or magic. Set the wheels in motion and build momentum.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Pamper yourself. An obstacle may block your personal plans. Don't let it ruffle you. Keep your temper even when others don't. Gain strength and options.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Find a peaceful spot for productive planning and coordination. Privately reach out to reliable sources. Make appointments and reservations for later action. Recharge.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Coordinate and

delegate actions to find a workaround for an unexpected roadblock. Keep people posted with the latest news. Teamwork eases any tension. Collaborate with friends.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Work takes priority. Stay connected with your crew for efficient coordination. Stick to basics, as surprises, delays or mistakes deviate from the plan. Simplify designs.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Revise travel and educational plans around a barrier or obstacle. Connect for shared support. Stick to basic structures. You're learning valuable skills. Patiently persist.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Make strategic financial plans and budgets with your partner. Stay agile and flexible by having backup plans and savings. Cut waste and simplify. Conserve resources.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Together you can untangle a complication. Unscheduled deviations challenge your plans. Find clever solutions in conversation. Collaboration resolves a puzzle. Show appreciation for another's efforts.

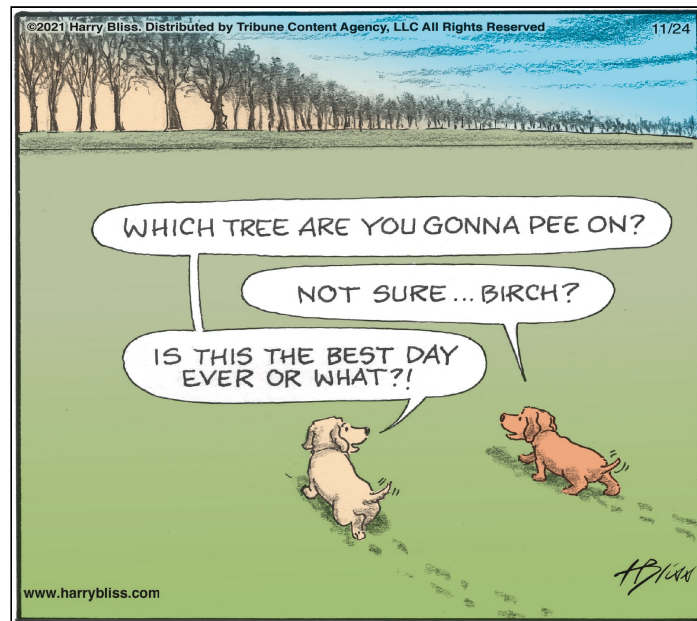
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize health and work. Physical barriers block your objectives. Consider the big picture. Don't force things or risk breakage. Get expert support when needed.

(Astrologer Nancy Black continues her mother Linda Black's legacy horoscopes column. She welcomes comments and questions on Twitter, @LindaCBlack. For more astrological interpretations like today's Gemini horoscope, visit Linda Black Astrology by clicking daily horoscopes, or go to www.nancyblack.com.)

[Click to read full story](#) ▶

COMICS

Bliss

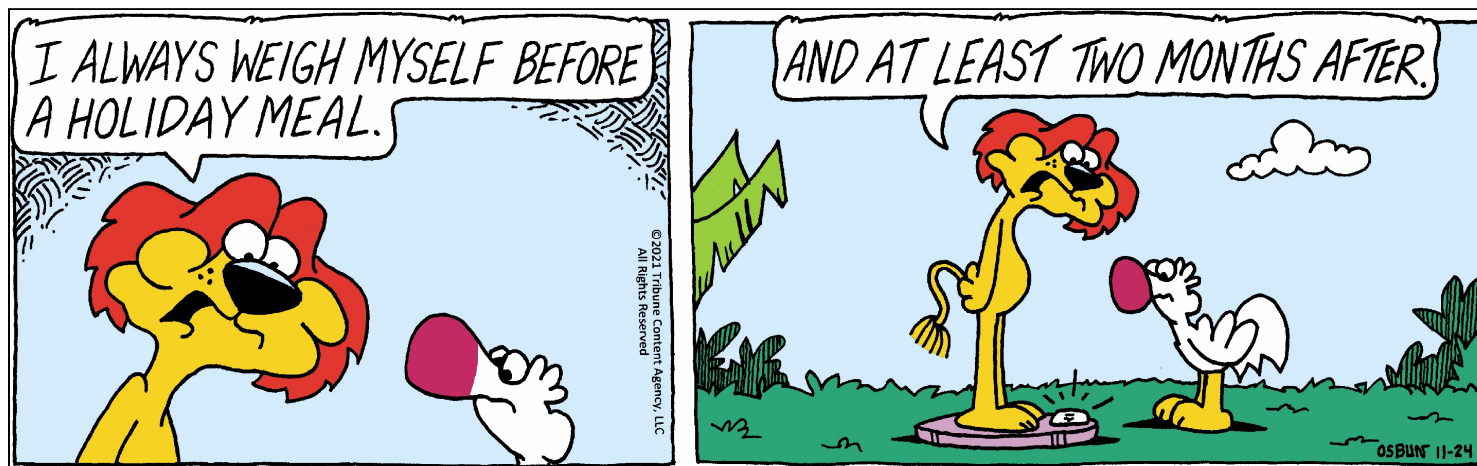


Bottom Liners

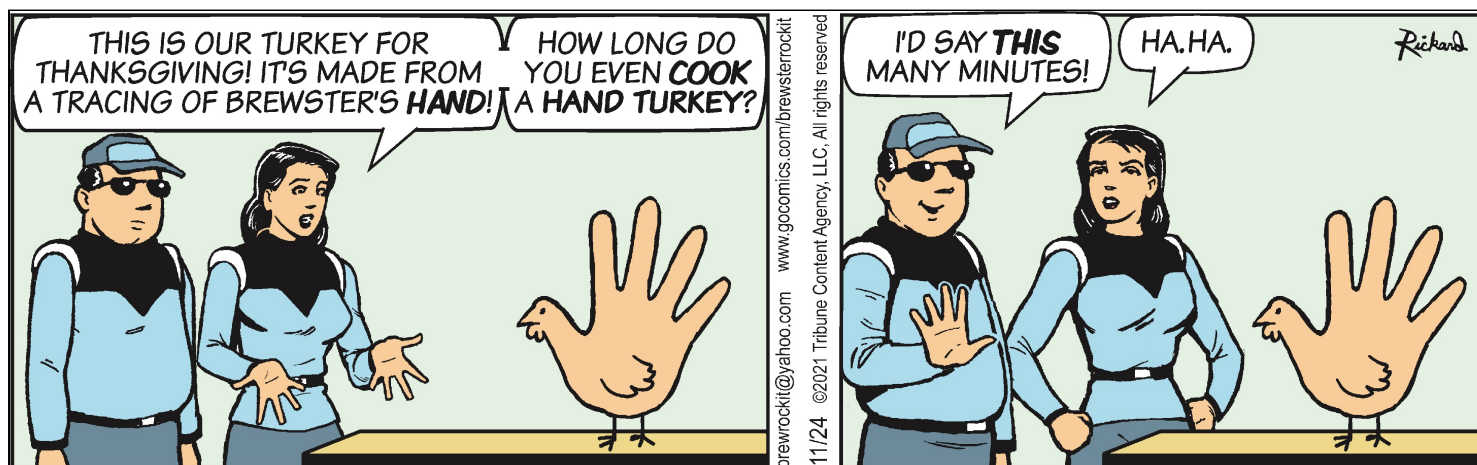


Looking for Puzzles & Games? Try these for size.
Click here to play Jumble, Sudoku
and the LA Times Crosswork at PlayJumble.com

Animal Crackers



Brewster Rockit



Broom-Hilda





From the editors of TV Weekly
and tvinsider.com

What to watch WEDNESDAY

Nov. 24, 2021

All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Bruised

Netflix ■ **Original Film**

Jackie Justice (Halle Berry, also making her directorial debut) is a mixed martial arts fighter who leaves the sport in disgrace. Down on her luck and simmering with rage and regret years after her last fight, she's coaxed into a brutal underground fight by her manager and boyfriend Desi (Adan Canto) and grabs the attention of a fight league promoter (Shamier Anderson) who promises Jackie a life back in the octagon. But the road to redemption becomes unexpectedly personal when Manny (Danny Boyd Jr.) — the son she gave up as an infant — shows up at her doorstep.

Hawkeye

Disney+ ■ **New Series**

Jeremy Renner reprises his role from the Avengers films as sharpshooter Clint Barton, aka Hawkeye, who joins forces with another well-known Marvel archer, Kate Bishop (Hailee Steinfeld). In the comics, Bishop takes on the mantle of Hawkeye from

Barton, so this series may very well feature a similar passing of the torch. Florence Pugh also reprises her big-screen MCU role, playing Yelena Belova, and if you saw her post-credits scene at the end of *Black Widow*, you have some idea how Belova may figure here. Hawkeye will also introduce Alaquia Cox as Maya Lopez, aka Echo, a superhero who can perfectly copy another person's movements and is one of the few deaf characters in comic books. Vera Farmiga also stars. First two episodes are available today; subsequent new episodes are available Wednesdays.

8-Bit Christmas

HBO Max ■ **Original Film**

Neil Patrick Harris, Winslow Fegley, June Diane Raphael and Steve Zahn star in this humorous and heartfelt look back at the adventures of childhood. Set in suburban Chicago in the 1980s, the story centers on 10-year-old Jake Doyle's (Fegley) herculean quest to get the latest and greatest video game system for Christmas. Harris plays an adult Jake and also narrates, with Raphael and Zahn playing young Jake's parents.

Hanna

Prime Video ■ **Season Premiere**

All six hourlong episodes of the third and final season of this espionage drama are available today. The new season continues the journey of Hanna (Esmé Creed-Miles), who was created by the sinister Utrax organization and trained to be an assassin, but is now secretly trying to destroy the group. Ray Liotta joins the cast as Gordon Evans, a respected former military man and intelligence operative who wields incredible insider power.



'Bruised'

JOHN BAER

NBA Basketball

ESPN, Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live

A Wednesday night NBA doubleheader on ESPN opens with Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets in Boston to take on Jayson Tatum and the Celtics. The Philadelphia 76ers are in the Bay Area to battle the Golden State Warriors in the second game.

Batwoman

The CW, 9 p.m.

In "Pick Your Poison," as Ryan's (Javicia Leslie) family dynamic grows more complicated, she also finds herself in the middle of a Bat Team standoff between Luke (Camrus Johnson) and Mary (Nicole Kang). Meanwhile, Alice (Rachel Skarsten) finds a new sidekick to do her bidding.

A 'Saturday Night Live' Thanksgiving

NBC, 9 p.m.

This two-hour special highlights memorable Thanksgiving-themed sketches from SNL's 47 seasons.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Sydney Greenstreet

TCM, Beginning at 8 p.m.

Turner Classic Movies' monthlong Wednesday-night salute to the films of legendary actor Sydney Greenstreet concludes this evening, and it starts out with a bang with two of Greenstreet's most famous movies. First up is the iconic, Oscar-winning **Casablanca** (pictured), the 1942 drama about romance and intrigue in the titular North African city that ranks as one of Hollywood's finest productions ever. Among the ways this film reaches perfection is with its flawless casting, evident not just in its

primary stars — Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid — but also its second-billed actors like Conrad Veidt, Peter Lorre and, of course, Greenstreet. As crooked club owner Ferrari, Greenstreet is not in the film a lot, but the character plays a key role, and when he does show up, Greenstreet steals the scene, as usual. Up next is the beloved, holiday-set 1945 romantic comedy *Christmas in Connecticut*, led by Barbara Stanwyck and Dennis Morgan, with Greenstreet as the editor for Stanwyck's journalist character. After that is the 1944 film noir *The Mask of Dimitrios*, led by Greenstreet and also starring Lorre and Zachary Scott; *Between Two Worlds* (1944), a wartime fantasy drama starring John Garfield and Henreid; *The Velvet Touch* (1948), a film noir headlined by Rosalind



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

Russell; and *They Died With Their Boots On* (1941), a fictionalized account of the life of George Armstrong Custer (Errol Flynn) that was Greenstreet's second film, featuring the actor in a smaller supporting role as Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott. — Jeff Pfeiffer



From the editors of TV Weekly
and tvinsider.com

What to watch THURSDAY

Nov. 25, 2021

All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

The Beatles: Get Back

Disney+ ■ **New Miniseries**

Peter Jackson's original documentary about the Beatles airs over three days on Thanksgiving weekend, with three separate two-hour episodes rolling out today, tomorrow and Saturday. The six hours of content is entirely comprised of never-before-seen footage, including the band's final live performance, footage that only Jackson has been given access to in the more than 50 years since its recording. The central narrative thread in *The Beatles: Get Back* is the Fab Four preparing for their first live show in over two years. They write and rehearse 14 new songs, demonstrating their camaraderie and creativity while doing so. In addition, the Beatles' last live performance as a group, a rooftop concert in early 1969 on London's Savile Row, is shown in its entirety. Jackson remarked that the footage, originally captured by Michael Lindsay-Hogg (the director of many Beatles music videos), reveals John, Paul, George and Ringo in a fresh, compelling way. "It's raw, honest and human," he said. "Over six hours, you'll get to know the Beatles with an intimacy that you never thought possible."

12 Dates of Christmas

HBO Max ■ **Season Premiere**

Season 2 of the holiday dating series follows three singles, Amanda Grace, Danny and Markelle, as they escape to a stunning winter wonderland, each searching for someone special to bring home for the holidays. The new season promises to spice up this festive time of year with even more dating drama, romance and surprises inside the fantasy lodge.

F is for Family

Netflix ■ **Season Premiere**

The raunchy and nostalgic adult animated comedy returns for a fifth and final season.

Cocreator Bill Burr, Laura Dern and Justin Long lead the voice cast.

The 95th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NBC, 9 a.m.; also streams on Peacock

The ultimate holiday tradition is back for its 95th year of giant balloons, fabulous floats, exciting performers and more fun.

The National Dog Show

NBC, noon; also streams on Peacock

More than 1,000 purebred dogs from over 100 American Kennel Club-sanctioned breeds, including many of America's elite show dogs and their owners and handlers, compete for Best of Breed, First in Group and Best in Show at this annual event hosted by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, which dates back to 1879. This year, the National Dog Show will introduce one new AKC-sanctioned breed: the Biewer (pronounced "beaver") terrier, which joins the Toy Group. John O'Hurley is back to host, alongside analyst David Frei and reporter Mary Carillo. NBC will re-air the show on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 27.

NFL Football

CBS, FOX & NBC,
Beginning at 12:30 p.m. Live

The NFL's Thanksgiving Day tradition continues with the Chicago Bears at the Detroit Lions (FOX), the Las Vegas Raiders at the Dallas Cowboys (CBS) and the Buffalo Bills at the New Orleans Saints in primetime (NBC; also streams on Peacock).

College Football: Ole Miss at Mississippi State

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

The Ole Miss Rebels and Mississippi State



NBC

Bulldogs battle in the Egg Bowl college football rivalry game tonight at Starkville's Davis Wade Stadium.

Nine Kittens of Christmas

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ **Original Film**

Cat lovers Zachary and Marilee are thrown back together at Christmas when they're tasked with finding homes for a litter of adorable kittens. Brandon Routh, Kimberley Sustad and Gregory Hattison star.

The Magic Maker

ABC, 8 p.m.

This Thanksgiving, famed magician Adam Trent breaks the No. 1 rule of magic and puts magic in the hands of everyday people to help them with the biggest and most emotional moments of their lives. Whether it's helping a U.S. soldier "magically" reappear to his family after serving overseas or teaching a nervous young man to "walk on water" for his marriage proposal, Adam Trent spends this holiday amazing and astonishing viewers while making dreams come true as "The Magic Maker."

CATCH A CLASSIC

Family Comedies

Happy Thanksgiving! On this family-oriented holiday, enjoy a day of hilarious family films on Turner Classic Movies. Today's lineup, airing well into tomorrow morning, in order, features: Andy Hardy's Private Secretary (1941), Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1938), The Courtship of Eddie's Father (1963), Room for One More (1952), Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House (1948),



COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

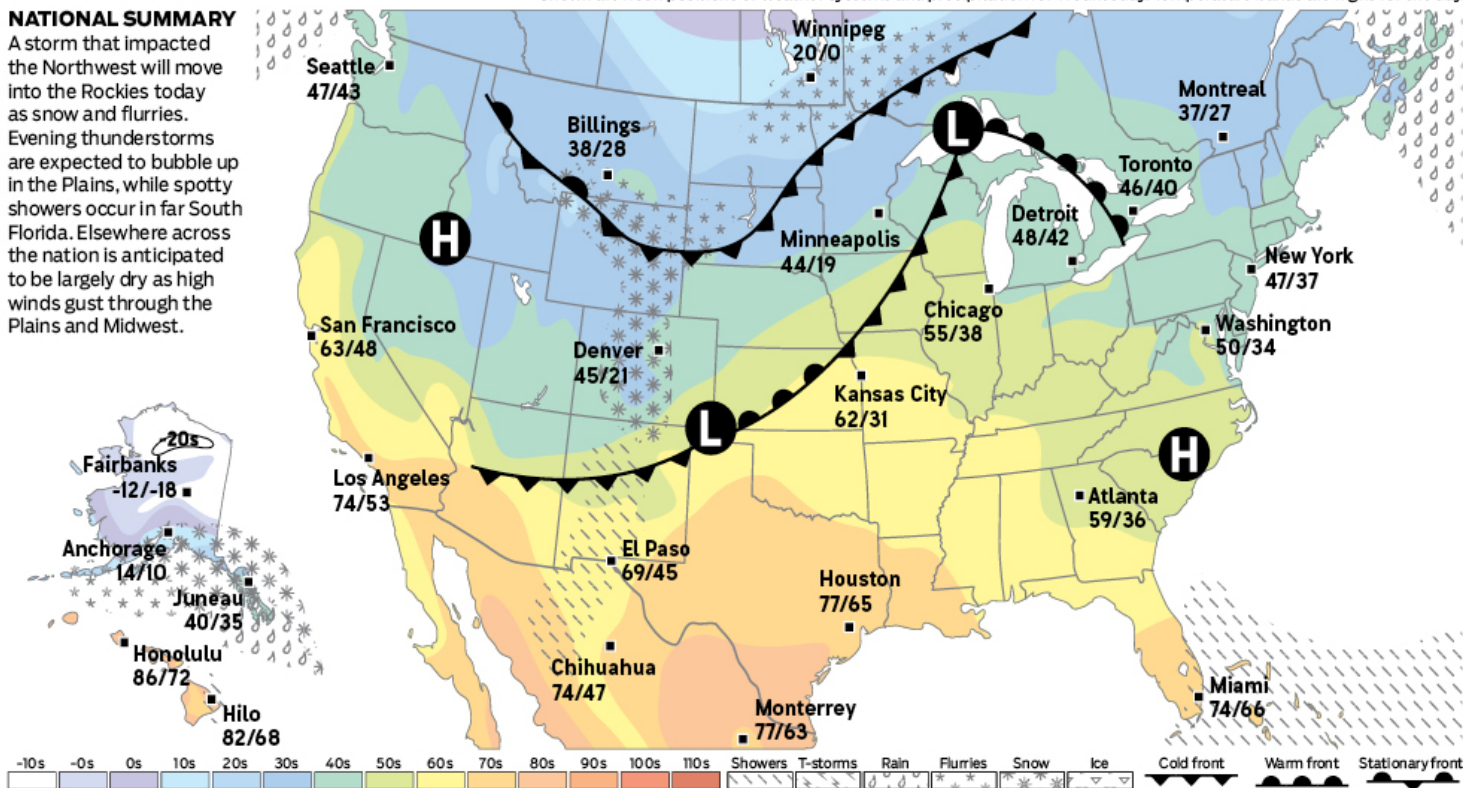
Father of the Bride (1950), **Houseboat (pictured)** (1958), Cheaper by the Dozen (1950), Yours, Mine and Ours (1968), Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation (1962) and Please Don't Eat the Daisies (1960).

WEATHER

NATIONAL SUMMARY

A storm that impacted the Northwest will move into the Rockies today as snow and flurries. Evening thunderstorms are expected to bubble up in the Plains, while spotty showers occur in far South Florida. Elsewhere across the nation is anticipated to be largely dry as high winds gust through the Plains and Midwest.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Wednesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL CITIES

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

	Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Albany, NY	42/25/s	48/36/c	Columbus, OH	50/40/pc	46/30/r	Key West	76/70/pc	78/71/pc	Philadelphia	48/33/s	57/42/pc
Albuquerque	57/34/c	52/28/s	Daytona Beach	69/58/pc	72/54/pc	Las Vegas	62/41/s	62/42/s	Phoenix	75/55/s	78/54/s
Anchorage	14/10/c	12/1/c	Des Moines	55/23/c	35/20/s	Lexington	53/42/pc	47/23/r	Pittsburgh	48/37/pc	47/30/sh
Atlanta	59/36/s	64/40/pc	Detroit	48/42/pc	46/25/r	Lincoln	54/26/c	41/28/s	Portland, ME	42/25/s	49/33/pc
Austin	78/59/c	64/42/r	Duluth	38/14/c	23/10/pc	Little Rock	66/55/c	56/28/r	Portland, OR	49/42/c	53/48/c
Baltimore	50/30/s	58/39/pc	El Paso	69/45/s	57/36/pc	Los Angeles	74/53/pc	74/50/s	Providence	46/30/s	56/38/pc
Baton Rouge	72/56/pc	74/45/c	Fairbanks	-12/-18/c	-10/-13/c	Louisville	57/47/pc	48/28/r	Raleigh	52/30/s	63/41/pc
Birmingham	60/40/pc	64/35/pc	Fargo	30/9/c	24/14/s	Memphis	64/53/c	57/30/r	Rapid City	37/15/sf	50/35/pc
Bismarck	31/9/sf	36/25/pc	Green Bay	49/33/pc	34/18/c	Milwaukee	52/38/c	40/23/c	Reno	48/24/s	54/32/s
Boise	42/29/s	47/33/c	Hartford	45/26/s	54/36/pc	Minneapolis	44/19/c	26/17/s	St. Louis	62/42/c	44/25/r
Burlington, VT	38/25/s	45/32/c	Helena	39/29/c	46/40/c	Mobile	67/48/pc	72/46/pc	Salt Lake City	41/26/s	45/30/pc
Charleston, SC	58/32/s	65/48/s	Honolulu	86/72/pc	85/72/s	Montgomery	64/35/s	69/43/pc	San Diego	70/52/pc	76/53/s
Charleston, WV	55/35/s	54/33/r	Houston	77/65/c	70/48/r	Myrtle Beach	54/33/s	62/50/pc	San Francisco	63/48/s	64/48/pc
Charlotte	54/31/s	62/44/pc	Indianapolis	52/44/pc	45/22/r	Nashville	60/43/pc	53/27/r	Santa Fe	52/25/sh	47/21/s
Chattanooga	58/33/pc	59/35/c	International Falls	31/6/sn	19/6/c	New Orleans	72/59/pc	74/53/pc	Spokane	35/29/c	42/37/sh
Cheyenne	36/20/sn	50/38/c	Jackson, MS	69/50/pc	69/37/pc	Norfolk, VA	48/32/s	60/44/s	Tampa	74/58/s	75/59/pc
Chicago	55/38/c	39/21/c	Jackson Hole, WY	32/8/s	33/16/c	Oklahoma City	69/38/c	51/28/pc	Topeka	65/31/c	44/27/s
Cincinnati	53/43/pc	45/26/r	Juneau	40/35/sn	39/28/r	Omaha	53/25/c	39/24/s	West Palm Beach	74/66/pc	78/63/pc
Cleveland	50/40/pc	46/31/r	Kansas City	62/31/c	43/26/s	Orlando	70/57/pc	74/58/pc	Wichita	66/33/c	48/28/s

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.		Today	Thu.
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Acapulco	86/73/t	86/74/t	Casablanca	65/46/pc	64/49/pc	Madrid	47/34/sh	50/34/c	Rome	63/54/t	60/51/r
Amsterdam	47/40/c	48/37/r	Dublin	44/35/r	43/37/c	Manila	93/80/s	88/79/sh	Santiago	80/53/s	89/56/s
Athens	61/51/r	59/50/c	Geneva	45/36/pc	45/37/c	Mexico City	72/52/t	72/50/t	Seoul	48/31/pc	48/26/pc
Auckland	69/59/c	69/59/c	Hanoi	72/61/pc	74/60/s	Montreal	37/27/s	40/33/c	Singapore	86/77/r	85/76/c
Baghdad	74/50/s	73/52/pc	Harare	79/59/t	70/58/t	Moscow	32/30/sn	36/32/c	Sydney	77/69/t	78/67/t
Bangkok	86/75/pc	88/74/c	Hong Kong	72/64/s	75/66/s	Nairobi	83/61/s	83/61/t	Tehran	61/45/s	60/47/pc
Beijing	51/25/pc	51/27/pc	Istanbul	53/46/c	55/45/pc	New Delhi	79/56/pc	78/58/pc	Tokyo	59/48/s	61/48/s
Berlin	46/33/c	41/33/c	Jakarta	91/77/t	93/77/t	Oslo	40/29/r	36/23/c	Toronto	46/40/pc	47/30/r
Bogota	64/50/r	65/49/r	Jerusalem	64/47/s	62/48/s	Panama City	85/73/t	84/74/t	Vancouver	46/42/sh	47/44/r
Buenos Aires	87/69/s	73/64/r	Johannesburg	78/53/c	67/51/c	Paris	43/32/s	43/33/c	Vienna	42/32/pc	43/35/c
Cairo	75/62/s	78/62/s	Lisbon	57/50/s	55/45/sh	Port-au-Prince	89/67/t	90/67/t	Warsaw	44/33/sh	41/31/pc
Caracas	88/74/sh	87/75/sh	London	45/38/pc	44/32/pc	Rio de Janeiro	78/69/s	82/71/pc	Winnipeg	20/0/sf	14/10/s

EXTREMES MONDAY

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 91 at Anaheim, CA
Low: 0 at Bodie State Park, CA
Precip: 2.11" at McAllen, TX

INTERNATIONAL

High: 109 at Fitzroy Crossing, Australia
Low: -50 at Tayakh-Kyrdala, Russia
Precip: 4.92" at Tegal, Indonesia

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Nov. 24, 1989, a band of heavy lake-effect snow contributed to an accident involving 60 cars on I-81 north of Rome, N.Y. Abrupt weather changes in a short distance can surprise drivers. Fog, for instance, has helped cause chain-reaction collisions.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What can be said about the speed of weather systems as winter comes?

A: They move faster in the Northern Hemisphere.